



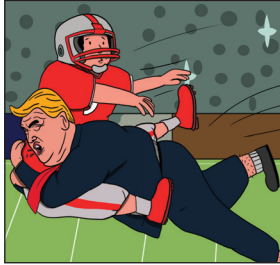
A&E

Student band keeps chemistry alive despite challenges

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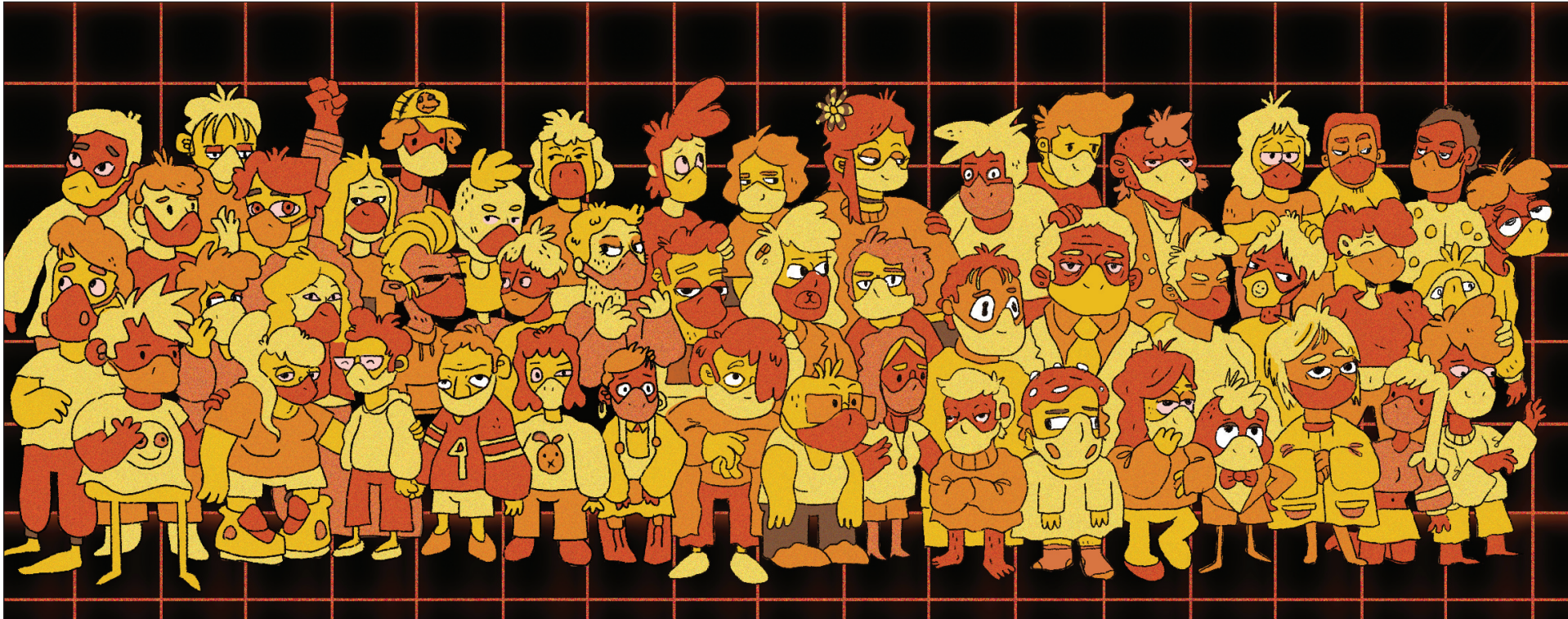


ILLUSTRATION BY NICK YBARRA

Moving back home stresses students

By Lexie Shezifi
STAFF WRITER

For San Jose State students like behavioral science senior Analisa Cortez, the transition to online classes and moving back in with parents because of the coronavirus pandemic has been difficult. “I feel like I’m not really comprehending the material,” she said in a SAMMY App message.

Cortez, who moved back to Sacramento in the middle of last semester, said it’s been hard learning at home using the current online format.

She said she has low motivation and often has difficulty finishing assignments.

Moreover, she said living almost two hours away from campus makes it difficult for her to complete assignments because she can’t physically connect with people, like for her ethnographic methods class where she had to survey SJSU students using an online format.

“On campus, [the class] could have just walked around,” Cortez said. “But off campus and especially two hours away from San Jose, it’s close to impossible to connect with other students.”

She also said the change to online

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For some, being at home may even be unhealthy as relationships with parents, significant others or family members may create situations that can create more challenges.

Kell Fujimoto
Counseling and Psychological Services director

learning has in some ways helped and hurt her mental health.

“It’s helped my anxiety in that I don’t have to worry about how to dress or, like, being physically in a classroom,” she said. “However, it is very depressing and discouraging that the courses I was so excited to take are now online or not even available.”

Overall, Cortez said she is frustrated because she is unable to study ethnographic methods, which is a research approach that examines subjects in their cultural

setting while applying theory that would have been available before the pandemic.

Moreover, she said she won’t be able to physically walk the stage at graduation.

“It sucks, but it’s still better than getting sick,” Cortez said.

Kell Fujimoto, director for SJSU’s Counseling and Psychological Services, said in an email to the Spartan Daily that some students who moved back home can experience an increase in anxiety and depression because of the changes in their routines.

“They may feel isolated and be in an environment that is unsupportive,” Fujimoto said. “For some, being at home may even be unhealthy as relationships with parents, significant others or family members may create situations that can create more challenges.”

Fujimoto said some coping mechanisms for students experiencing anxiety and depression include staying connected with friends, creating supportive networks and incorporating physical activity into your life.

“Students can approach their feelings rather than avoid them and seek out resources that are available on campus and their surrounding community,” Fujimoto said.

In addition, he said it was important to develop new routines that are better adapted for the current circumstances.

“When there is a sudden change of our lifestyle, we lose our sense of self due to losing the routines that we had on a daily basis,” Fujimoto said.

For design studies junior Ben Revell, leaving San Jose and moving in with his girlfriend in Washington is better than living near campus.

“It’s been nice . . . because previously we were doing long distance,” Revell said in an interview via Discord. “I’m not getting the ‘college experience,’ but it’s a nice alternative.”

Revell said he was lucky the change to online learning wasn’t as stressful as it has been for students in other majors because most of his classwork is program based and online.

“I can just do most things on my tablet but I can understand how it would be hard for people without one,” Revell said.

With next semester also being mostly online, students who are feeling anxious and stressed can call CAPS at (408) 924-5910.

Follow Lexie on Twitter |
@lexie4real

SJ City Council discusses non-emergency calls

Residents say 311 phone line goes unanswered, officials cite lack of funding

By Stephanie Lam
STAFF WRITER

The San Jose City Council discussed how to improve internal communications for handling residents’ non-emergency issues during Tuesday’s Zoom meeting.

Even though residents can call the city’s 311 phone line or download the San Jose 311 app to submit non-emergency service requests, councilmembers said the city has been receiving an influx of 311-related calls. These calls are operated and funded by San Jose Police Communications, which is part of the Bureau of Administration in the San Jose Police Department.

Non-emergency service requests include reporting things like abandoned vehicles, graffiti, illegal dumping and streetlight outages, according to the San Jose City 311 website.

According to the San Jose Police

Communications website, when SJPD gets a 311 call, it will determine whether it is a job for the police or for another department within the city. If it is for the city, it’s forwarded to city services to review and resolve.

Councilmember Pam Foley said in the city council meeting that the District 9 office is getting multiple direct calls a day regarding vehicle abatement, which are cars or motor homes that have been abandoned, unregistered, inoperative or permanently parked on public roads.

“This is a frustration [for residents],” Foley said. “They’re home, watching [an abandoned] car sitting out in front of the house, it’s been there from a week and no one’s removing it.”

Foley said residents told the District 9 office that when they put a request on the 311 app, they didn’t get a response back from the San Jose Department of Transportation for weeks.

Deputy City Manager Jim Ortbal, who oversees the transportation department, said in the meeting that San Jose’s General Purpose Parking Fund pays the staff in the transportation department’s non-essential services, including vehicle abatement.

He said the fund’s revenue comes from San Jose street parking meters and parking garages. Ortbal said that when shelter-in-place mandates were enacted in March, the department stopped collecting the funds and couldn’t afford

“

We’re spending millions of dollars on that 311 system. I know we are. If it’s not going to work, why spend the money on it?



Johnny Khamis
District 10 councilmember

to pay the department’s staff members.

Heather Hoshii, division manager for San Jose Parking and Downtown Operations, said the transportation department had a staff who would supervise and sort the 311 requests to their appropriate department. She said the staff was relocated to work in the Office of Emergency Management until January 2021.

John Ristow, director of the department of transportation, said in the meeting that the department will work with the city management team to improve the efficiency of the 311 app.

“I’m getting comments from residents like, ‘You’re hiding behind COVID and not doing [the 311] anymore,’ ”

IN BRIEF

- Councilmembers discuss how to deal with rising non-emergency calls.
- Lack of revenue from parking meters and garages leave non-emergency operations underfunded, city manager says.
- San Jose residents voice frustration over vehicle abatement.

councilmember Dev Davis said. “There is a sense of wanting to return to normal and wanting our services to return to normal and that not happening as quickly as reopenings are happening.”

Davis said the District 6 office and councilmember Johnny Khamis’s District 10 office were also getting non-emergency requests.

“We’re spending millions of dollars on that 311 system, I know we are,” Khamis said. “If it’s not going to work, why spend the money on it?”

Follow Stephanie on Twitter |
@Steph.C.Lam

Student band endures with strong bond

By **Stephanie Lam**
STAFF WRITER

Successful bands are often known for their undeniable chemistry and ricochet-like energy. For local ska band Voluntary Hazing, they’re finding a way to keep their magnetism alive by navigating a new reality of online rehearsals.

According to music education website Musical U, ska is a genre of music that combines both jazz and blues with a Jamaican folk flare. The 12-member group composed of San Jose State students and alumni, performs renditions of songs from artists like Elton John and Panic! at the Disco in addition to producing original music.

The band is divided into three groups: vocals, rhythm and brass. Rhythm members play instruments like drums and bass, while brass members perform with either trumpets or saxophones.

But with so many members, it’s hard to designate a time and day to practice together, Thomas Narveson, a trumpet player and former SJSU student, said over the phone.

“Working with the members of Voluntary Hazing is like working on a group project,” Narveson said. “Except there’s 12 of you and everyone has to do a specific thing all the time.”

Prior to shelter-in-place mandates, the band performed live gigs almost every month at Downtown San Jose music venues. So far, the band has performed at places like Art Boutiki Music Hall and the SJSU Hammer Theatre Center.

But now that most venues are closed, the band has participated in livestream concerts, most recently a remote Relay For Life

fundraiser raising money for cancer research.

In order to play livestream gigs, each member has to use a camera to record their own instrumental part at home. The clips are then compiled and made into a video by Kayla Renelle, a 2020 SJSU public relations alumna and the band’s only vocalist.

“It’s a very weird time to be making music, but we definitely don’t want to stop and lose the momentum we have going,” Renelle said over the phone.

Despite the band’s large group size and remote meetings, the members said they have maintained their chemistry with one another.

Vincent Jurado, a 2020 SJSU music education alumnus and the band’s other trumpet player, describes the band’s bond as “tight.” He said the members have group chats and they message each other every day with cover song suggestions and life updates.

We all feel for each other, we all support each other,” Jurado said over the phone. “There’s no drama, it’s mostly just memes and musical ideas.”

Volunteer Hazing fans said they notice the band’s dedication to one another and to their music.

SJSU photography senior Meredith Williams discovered the band through her friend Nicolas Johnson, who is the keyboardist for the band. Williams attended multiple live and remote shows the band took part in this year. She said she admires how passionate the band members are when playing their music.

“The gigs they do are super wonderful and warm people’s hearts,” Williams said over the phone. “I really hope COVID-19 ends soon and they can do live performances again. [When they do], I will be right there with my camera.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH KHALIFA

Voluntary Hazing, formerly SJSU Ska Ensemble, plays during a listening hour in the Music Building in 2019.

“It’s a very weird time to be making music, but we definitely don’t want to stop and lose the momentum we have going.”

Kayla Renelle
Voluntary Hazing vocalist

Before calling themselves Voluntary Hazing, the band’s name was SJSU Ska Ensemble. The ensemble was founded in Fall 2018 by Thomas Narveson, guitarist and music education senior Gabe Perez and drummer Alex Quick.

The trio formed the group as a way to share ska music and history with their friends from

the Spartan Marching Band. Any SJSU student could join the ensemble’s weekly meetings in the music department. The ensemble didn’t advertise its meet ups, but people heard about the band through word-of-mouth.

Occasionally, the ensemble would sign up to play at the SJSU music department’s open mic nights and listening hour series. Prior to remote learning, Listening hour was an opportunity for music and dance students to perform in front of their peers for course credit.

Despite having weekly meetings on campus, they were never registered as an official SJSU club. Narveson said he didn’t want to fill out the required paperwork and procedures that came with registering a club.

Renelle said the members

renamed the band in Spring 2019. The group’s members wanted to perform off-campus gigs and changed the band name so they wouldn’t be mistaken for an SJSU club.

Perez said the January release of the band’s first album “Crossroads” is one of their biggest accomplishments. All five tracks on the album were written, recorded and produced by the band members.

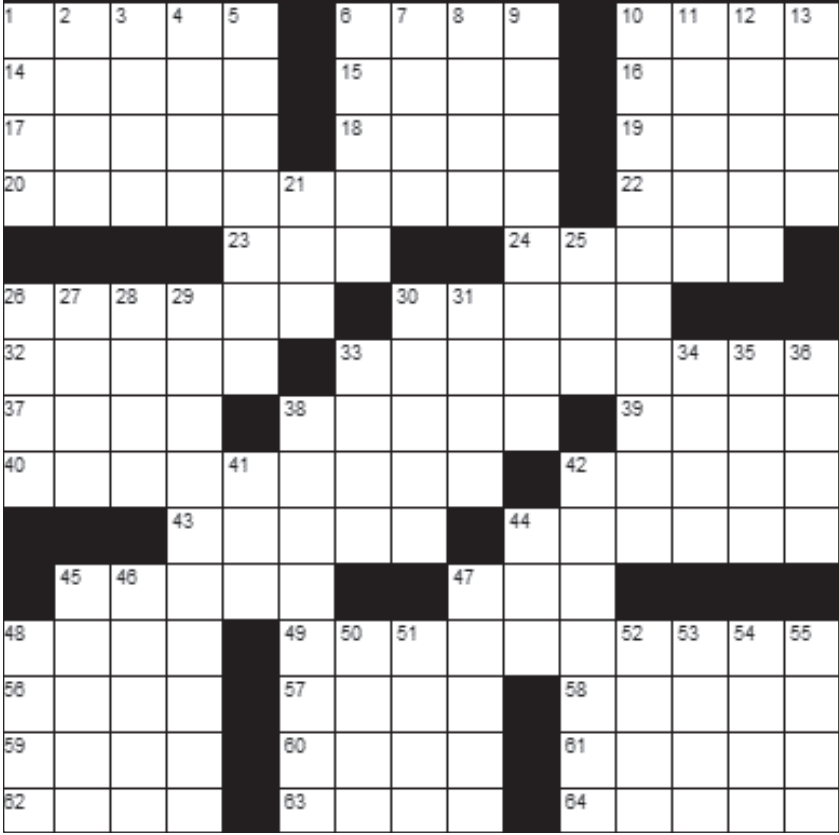
Once shelter-in-place mandates are lifted, Narveson said he hopes the band can perform their songs from “Crossroads” in person and onstage again.

“There’s just something about playing with a bunch of people who are doing the same dance and we’re all doing the same thing,” Narveson said. “It’s just a good time.”

Follow Stephanie on Twitter |
@StephCLam

CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. A very proper person
6. Disappear gradually
10. Ends a prayer
14. Unit of luminous flux
15. Comply with
16. A temple (archaic)
17. Implant
18. Govern
19. Brag
20. Extremely angry
22. Makes a mistake
23. East southeast
24. Eagle’s nest
26. Clergyman
30. Harangues
32. Streamlets
33. Cooling effect of wind
37. Doing nothing
38. Trifling
39. Operatic solo
40. Hypnotize
42. Steer clear of
43. Each and all
44. Twerp
45. Monetary penalties
47. Manner
48. Be compelled

49. Voters
56. Constellation bear
57. Snack
58. Open skin infections
59. See the sights
60. Anagram of “Note”
61. Unlocks
62. 3
63. Hurried
64. Rental agreement

DOWN

1. Urgent request
2. Backside
3. Part of an ear
4. Very intense
5. Infinite
6. Compel
7. Border
8. Sandwich shop
9. Pleasing visual images
10. Man’s lotion
11. New Zealand native
12. Habitate
13. Catches
21. Estimate (abbrev.)
25. And so forth
26. Dainty
27. Go on horseback
28. Ailments
29. Primary
30. Posh
31. Pot
33. Small dam
35. 53 in Roman numerals
36. Stow, as cargo
38. Gifts
41. Night before
42. Spray can
44. Drollness
45. Uproar
46. Put out
47. Hurt
48. Mongrel
50. Coil
51. Feudal worker
52. Lasso
53. Region
54. Anagram of “Nets”
55. Being

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

		7					4	
	4		9					
1		9	8	4		3		
	7	4						
	9	6	2		7	4	3	
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					1		8	
2						6		

SOLUTIONS 09/22/2020

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1	2	3	8	5	4	7	9	6
4	3	6	5	2	7	9	1	8
5	9	2	4	8	1	6	7	3
7	8	1	3	9	6	2	4	5

JOKIN’ AROUND

What does a spider’s bride wear?

A wedding dress.

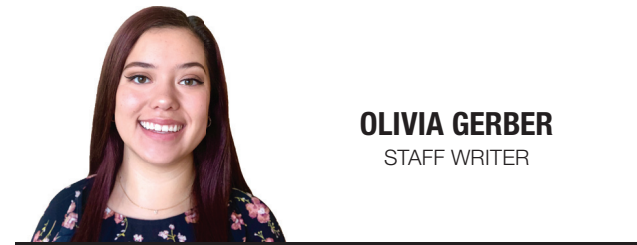
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Trump risks student-athletes’ health



OLIVIA GERBER
STAFF WRITER

President Trump’s influence on the Big Ten Conference’s decision to reinstate the football season this fall semester is a political play to boost his reelection chances and puts the lives of student-athletes at risk.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, multiple college football conferences delayed this season to start back up in spring, according to a Sept. 17 Washington Post article. Until last week, this included the Big Ten Conference that consists of universities like Michigan State University, Penn State University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Based on the voting patterns of previous elections, some of the states represented in this conference such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Nebraska tend to lean Democrat. For the upcoming election, Trump will need to win over these states to earn more electoral college votes.

Trump’s stance on big name football universities returning to play can easily be interpreted as politically driven. This may be because of the fact that in a 2018-19 National Football Foundation report,

56% of the U.S. adult population described themselves as college football fans. After the Big Ten Conference initially announced it would postpone its football season because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump began advertising his involvement in getting the conference to reverse its decision.

“Had a very productive conversation with Kevin Warren, commissioner of the Big Ten Conference, about immediately starting up Big Ten football. Would be good (great!) for everyone—players, fans, country,” Trump tweeted on Sept. 1.

Not even one day after the announcement of the conference returning to play, at least one university is already dealing with repercussions and now has to damage control in order to protect its community.

The same day the Big Ten Conference announced its return in the fall, the University of Wisconsin-Madison issued a statement urging its students and staff not to gather and watch their school’s football games. The university also informed the community that more than 40 members of the athletics department tested

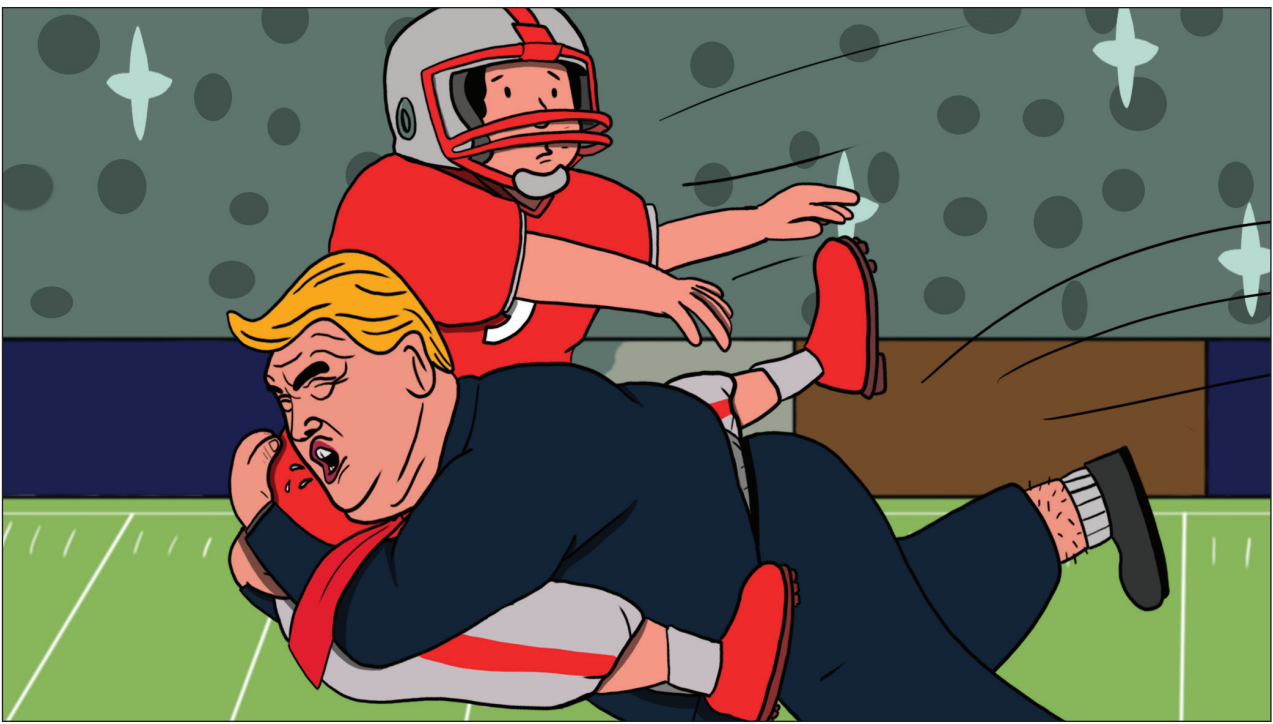


ILLUSTRATION BY HANZ PACHECO

positive for COVID-19.

According to the New York Times’ COVID-19 case tracker, Big Ten teams are still experiencing a rise in case numbers. In the past week in Wisconsin, there was an average of 1,870 cases per day, an increase of 131% from two weeks earlier. In Michigan this week, an average of 768 cases per day have been recorded, an increase of 3% from two weeks earlier.

Despite these numbers, the Big Ten Conference announced on their website Sept. 16 that its football season will continue this fall.

After the announcement, Trump tweeted about his influence, making sure it was clear to voters that he had played a part in the decision.

“Thank you to the players, coaches, parents and all school

representatives,” Trump said in a Sept. 16 tweet. “Have a FANTASTIC SEASON! It is my great honor to have helped!!!”

Now it seems Trump has his sights set on influencing the Pac-12 Conference to return to play. On a strategic level this conference is very influential because it draws a large audience. According to a 2017 article from Pac-12, the conference experienced record-breaking views on games with fans watching more than 120,000 hours of video.

“Open up, Pac-12. Get going,” Trump said in a tweet on Sept. 16. “I said the same thing to the Big Ten and they did. And now I’m saying it to (the) Pac-12. You have time, you really have time right now. Get going.”

Interestingly, Trump ignored other conferences’ postponements including the Mountain West Conference, where San Jose State plays, and the Mid-American Conference.

This is likely because the states represented in these conferences including California, Nevada and New Mexico, tend to faithfully vote for the Democratic nominee so Trump may see these as a waste of his time.

Trump has politicized collegiate sports by targeting football conferences in states where he needs to earn votes to boost his reelection chances. He seems to be under the impression that college football is so important to voters that his part in making the seasons resume will increase his popularity.

According to a Sept. 17 New York Times article, Trump’s path to winning the White House shrinks considerably without winning electoral college votes in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, the states represented in the Big Ten Conference. If presidential candidate Joe Biden wins those three states and all of the states Hillary Clinton won in 2016 plus Arizona, he’ll have 270 electoral votes, winning him the presidency, according to a Sept. 5 CNN article.

In an effort to gain votes, Trump is willing to put the lives of college athletes on the line.

Follow Olivia on Twitter | @LivGerber



ABOUT

The Spartan Daily serves as San Jose State’s top news source and was named the best student newspaper in the state. New issues are published Tuesday through Thursday during the academic year with the website updated daily.

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For more information about my services, please contact at (415) 640-5057 and leave a voicemail. I can also be reached by email at chrischjackson@gmail.com.

I look forward to working with you!

Berkeley graduate Chris Jackson

Icons created by Eucalyp and Adrien Coquet from Noun Project.



Clarification

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, the Spartan Daily published a story titled, “SJSU vets candidates for advocacy director” which should have stated that Leslye Tinson, a psychology and African American studies lecturer, entrusts San Jose State to find the best candidate for director of advocacy for racial justice.

The Spartan Daily regrets these error.